

Content

- APAC Annual Meeting Hosted by IAS
- ILAC-IAF Annual Meeting
- North American Accreditation Forum
- Accreditation Committee Meeting
- Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Program Update
- FDA Makes ASCA Permanent Program
- New Standards Development Accreditation Program
- Fabricators, Metal Building Systems and Erectors Inspection Accreditation Program
- International Journal of Conformity Assessment (IJCA), Volume 2
- Building Department Accreditation and Recognition Programs
- FEMA Program Funds Building Department Accreditation
- Accredited Field Evaluation Body Customers Expand Scopes
- Management Systems and Information Technology Security
- Product Certification Agency Accreditation (PCA) Update
- Personnel Certification Body Program (PCB) Update
- Medical Laboratories Accredited by IAS Recognized Internationally
- Proficiency Testing Providers Accreditation Updates
- Inspection Agency Accreditation Program Update
- Special Inspection Agency Program Update
- IAS Aerospace Program
- Accreditation in the Americas Update
- ELAP Program Continues to Strengthen at IAS
- Validation and Verification Body (VVB)
- Logos, Symbols and Marks
- Get Training from IAS

Letter from the President

From the President's Desk

2023 was a year that not only witnessed the resurgence of travel but also marked pivotal milestones for the International Accreditation Service (IAS), including co-hosting the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California, which was a significant event for us in the United States.

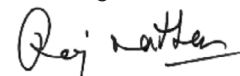
In 2023, we experienced notable transitions as we bid farewell to esteemed colleagues such as Helga Alexander, David Musselwhite, Walter Mershon, Sandi McCracken, and Carrie Bivers, as they retired or transitioned from their roles at IAS.

Throughout the year, IAS continued its growth trajectory, expanding its customer base, welcoming new personnel, venturing into new regions and countries, and introducing new accreditation programs. Moreover, the successful culmination of the APAC quadrennial evaluation of IAS in 2023 showcased our ongoing commitment to excellence.

November marked a significant moment as our senior management and technical program managers actively participated in the ILAC-IAF annual meeting in Montreal, Canada—an invaluable in-person gathering after four years. Furthermore, IAS applied for and obtained recognitions from numerous regulatory bodies globally, detailed in the newsletter below.

As we conclude this year, I extend sincere gratitude to the IAS Board of Directors, the IAS Accreditation Committee Members, the members of all the IAS Technical Advisory Councils, and the countless volunteers who devote their time to serve in various IAS committees. I wish you all the best for 2024 and appreciate your continued commitment to serving the global conformity assessment bodies while upholding international and national standards.

Best regards,



Raj Nathan
President, IAS





APAC Annual Meeting Hosted by IAS

The 2023 Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) Annual Meeting took place from June 23 to July 1 at the JW Marriott Anaheim Resort in Anaheim, California, hosted by IAS alongside other U.S. accreditation bodies. APAC serves as a regional cooperation of accreditation bodies and related organizations focused on accredited conformity assessment. This network’s primary goal is to facilitate the acceptance of conformity assessment results across the region, thus contributing to the facilitation of trade and the free-trade goal of “tested/inspected/certified once, accepted everywhere.”

Raj Nathan, APAC Vice Chair and President of IAS, emphasized, “IAS staff played a pivotal role participating in the technical sessions and overall organization of the meetings, which took place in close vicinity of the IAS headquarters in Brea, California.” APAC functions as a regional body operating under the umbrella of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). [Watch Opening Session.](#)



ILAC-IAF Annual Meeting

The [International Accreditation Forum Inc.](#) (IAF) and [International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation](#) (ILAC) held their Joint Annual Meetings from November 6 to November 15, in Montréal, Canada. Several of IAS’s management and technical personnel actively contribute to various positions within ILAC and IAF committees and work groups. Raj Nathan, IAS President, serves on the IAF Executive Committee

(Board) as well as the Joint Executive Committee of ILAC-IAF. Additionally, George Anastasopoulos, IAS Senior Vice President and Patrick McCullen, IAS Manager, participate in various IAF Mandatory Document (MD) working groups. Karthik Easwar, IAS Quality Manager, is a member of the IAF internal audit team, while Dimitrios Katsieris, IAS Manager, is involved in the ILAC Food working group. Greg West, VP Accreditation Program Development Group, contributes to the ILAC IAF Communications group, and Osman Vural, IAS Manager, is on the ILAC calibration working group.

Both ILAC and IAF comprise accreditation bodies from countries worldwide with the goal of providing mutual recognitions for accredited laboratories, inspection agencies, and certification bodies.

North American Accreditation Forum

The North American Accreditation Forum (NAAF) was established in June 2023 by accreditation bodies in North America. NAAF serves as a platform for accreditation bodies, industry associations, and companies to foster the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and perspectives on conformity assessment and accreditation. This initiative aligns with the principles of the World Trade Organization and United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

IAS holds full membership in NAAF, and Raj Nathan, President of IAS, serves as a member of the NAAF Board of Directors. Accreditation bodies and other organizations outside of North America are welcome to become members of NAAF. For more information about NAAF, visit <https://www.na-af.org/>.



Accreditation Committee Meeting

The IAS Accreditation Committee Meeting was held virtually on October 4, 2023.

The primary objectives of the meeting were to establish or revise accreditation criteria pertaining to IAS accreditation programs and to inform the public on IAS principles and major policies. The open hearing process allowed all interested parties to share ideas or express their opinions on any of the Proposed Criteria. For further information about the proposed criteria discussed during the meeting, [click here](#).



Calibration Laboratory Accreditation Program Update

In a strategic move to connect with key decision-makers in the business-to-business measurement science industry, IAS made a significant impact at the NCSL International Workshop & Symposium held from July 8 to 12, 2023. During this event, IAS representatives actively participated in pivotal committee meetings, such as the Accreditation Resources Committee, the American Standards Committee (ASC)—commonly known as the Z540 Committee, and the Calibration Systems Resources Committee. These engagements focused on essential topics related to metrology and accreditation services.

A prominent theme of discussion at the conference centered around the revision of ISO 10012: Measurement Management Systems. Specifically, the focus was on revising the requirements concerning measuring processes and equipment. In-depth discussions were held regarding the Decision Rule, particularly evaluating whether a simple acceptance rule, excluding uncertainty considerations, aligns with the 17025 standards.



FDA Makes ASCA Permanent Program

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the transition of the Accreditation Scheme for Conformity Assessment (ASCA) pilot program to a permanent program effective September 19, 2023. This decision significantly impacts accreditation of testing laboratories involved in conducting premarket testing for medical device companies.

IAS has been granted the authority to accredit testing laboratories using the ISO/IEC 17025 standard in conjunction with the ASCA program specifications. For additional details, [click here](#).



International Journal of Conformity Assessment (IJCA), Volume 2

The second edition of the International Journal of Conformity Assessment (IJCA), published by IAS in 2023, stands as a noteworthy accomplishment. As a peer-reviewed publication designed for both conformity assessment academics and practitioners, the IJCA strives to make a substantial impact on the fields of testing, inspection, certification, and accreditation. Serving as a reputable platform, it disseminated valuable knowledge and methodologies pertaining to global conformity assessment practices and concepts. Explore [Volume II](#) and [Volume I here](#).



New Standards Development Accreditation Program

IAS is set to launch a new Accreditation Program specifically tailored for Standards Development Organizations in 2024. The criteria for this program received approval during the 2023 IAS Accreditation Committee Meeting, conducted virtually on October 4, 2023.



Fabricators, Metal Building Systems and Erectors Inspection Accreditation Program

Throughout 2023, IAS and other entities engaged in a series of activities aimed at sharing information within the building industry regarding accreditation programs. These programs covered Inspection Programs of Metal Building Manufacturers, Metal Building Assemblers, Manufacturers of Cold-Formed Steel Components, Fabricator Inspections, and Fabricators of Container Based Structures. The outreach efforts encompassed exhibits, presentations, articles, advertisements, and active participation in numerous industry events.



IAS prominently featured exhibit booths at various industry events, while also hosting educational webinars specifically focusing on the AC478 and AC472 Accreditation Programs for AIA Chapters. Meanwhile, the Metal Building Contractors & Erectors Association (MBCEA) organized multiple Roundtable Discussions, providing invaluable support and guidance to companies interested in becoming accredited under AC478.

Building Department Accreditation and Recognition Programs

Building departments across the U.S. and Canada have shown an increased interest in both the Building Department Accreditation Program and the Building Department Recognition Program. Notable among the newly accredited building departments are the City of Palm Bay, Florida Building Department; City of Tamarac, Florida Building Department; Elk Grove Village, Illinois Building & Property Maintenance Division; Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, Kentucky Code Enforcement Division; and Village of Wellington, Florida Building Department. Additionally, the Village of Arlington Heights, Illinois Building & Life Safety Department achieved recognition under the Building Department Recognition Program. In addition to these achievements, IAS actively participated in several ICC Chapter Annual Meetings and educational events.



LEXINGTON



FEMA Program Funds Building Department Accreditation

In fiscal year 2023 (FY 2023), FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program is allocating an unprecedented \$137 million in dedicated funds for code activities (Codes Plus Up). The Codes Plus Up will provide \$2 million per state and territory and \$25 million for tribal governments, aimed to bolster the adoption, updating, implementation, and enforcement of hazard-resistant codes. These funds can be used to support building departments seeking accreditation from IAS. [Learn more here.](#)

Accredited Field Evaluation Body Customers Expand Scopes

IAS has received feedback from Accredited Field Evaluation Body (FEB) customers indicating an increasing interest from Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) in seeking FEB accreditation, particularly concerning the expansion of semiconductor factories in the USA with custom equipment. Prospective clients seeking auxiliary electrical services may also be eligible for inspection agency accreditation.

IAS offers accreditation for field evaluation bodies according to the requirements outlined in the IAS Accreditation Criteria for Field Evaluation of Unlisted Electrical Equipment (AC354), ISO/IEC 17020 and NFPA Standards. IAS-accredited FEBs are qualified to evaluate unlisted electrical equipment in the field, and the IAS FEB Accreditation assists the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to evaluate and approve unlisted electrical equipment in the field.

Management Systems and Information Technology Security

IAS's Management Systems Certification Body Accreditation Program remains dedicated to meeting industry needs. Notably, there has been an increased emphasis this year on Information Technology/Information Technology Security sectors. Considering the pervasive influence of information technology in our daily lives, certification and accreditation in these domains have become increasingly important.

One significant standard in focus is ISO/IEC 27701, designed to assist organizations in safeguarding the private information often requested in our daily interactions. For instance, when we are asked for our email address to receive a free newsletter, how do we know that information is kept private as promised in the fine print? An organization with an ISO/IEC 27701 Management System (MS) should be able to demonstrate that adherence. [Click here for more.](#)





Product Certification Agency Accreditation (PCA) Update

IAS has accredited Product Certification Agencies across multiple International Accreditation Forum (IAF)-endorsed and regulatory schemes. In July 2023, the PCA Technical Advisory Council (TAC) meeting took place. Furthermore, updates to the Accreditation Criteria for Product Certification Agencies (AC370) were addressed during the October Accreditation Committee Hearing.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is currently working on updating ISO/IEC 17067, which focuses on the fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes. ISO will ballot members to determine whether ISO/IEC 17065 requires revisions. A decision is expected to be made by Fall 2024.



Personnel Certification Body Program (PCB) Update

The client demand for accreditation under the Personnel Certification Body Program (PCB) has significantly increased, particularly in Asia and the Far East. A noticeable trend reveals a growing emphasis on technical subjects such as Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) and welder certifications within personnel certification.

A significant milestone was achieved with the commencement of the revision process for the ISO/IEC 17024 standard. Notably, IAS actively supports this process through Osman Vural's participation in the committee for conformity assessment working group (ISO/CASCO WG) 30. [Learn More.](#)

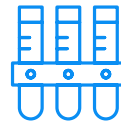
The release of "IAF MD25:2023 Criteria for Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes" in 2023 is poised to substantially impact both new and existing PCB accreditations. This mandatory document is set to take effect in January 2024. [Learn More.](#)



Medical Laboratories Accredited by IAS Recognized Internationally

IAS successfully completed the Peer Evaluation by the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) and became a signatory member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for medical testing in 2023. As a result, Medical Reports issued by the IAS-accredited medical laboratories are recognized internationally.

The second edition of the main accreditation criteria, ISO 15189 was recently revised and published in 2022. This revision requires IAS to initiate a transition policy for accredited and applicant medical laboratories to ensure compliance with the revised ISO 15189:2022 standard. IAS is now ready to accept applications for ISO 15189:2022. [Learn More.](#)



Proficiency Testing Providers Accreditation Updates

IAS is in the process of preparing its Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation Program to undergo the peer review process of APAC with the aim of becoming a Mutual Recognition Arrangement partner of ILAC for proficiency testing. The accreditation program plays a crucial role in facilitating the availability of performance tools, such as proficiency testing activities for accredited ISO/IEC 17025 testing and calibration laboratories, ISO 15189 accredited medical laboratories, and ISO/IEC 17020 accredited inspection bodies. These accredited organizations can fulfill the requirements outlined in these standards, and the proficiency testing provides an ongoing quality control check for these organizations.

To attain IAS accreditation, proficiency testing providers must adhere to the requirements specified in ISO/IEC 17043:2023: Conformity Assessment: General Requirements for the competence of proficiency testing providers. In response to the recent changes in the main accreditation criteria, specifically the new version of ISO/IEC 17043:2023, IAS initiated the revision of Accreditation Criteria for Proficiency Testing Providers (AC 785) and relevant assessment documents. Additionally, a transition policy has been issued for both accredited and applicant proficiency testing providers. IAS is currently accepting applications for the 2023 edition of ISO/IEC 17043:2023. [Learn More.](#)



Inspection Agency Accreditation Program Update

The Inspection Agency Accreditation Program is steadily expanding, encompassing new areas such as pre-shipment inspections, sampling, and chemistry. An assessors' technical session held on October 17, 2023, allowed IAS assessors to review pertinent technical matters related to inspections. Additionally, IAS personnel actively participate in APAC and ILAC inspection committees, offering valuable feedback on revisions to ISO/IEC 17020. [Learn More.](#)





IAS Aerospace Program



Special Inspection Agency Program Update

Throughout the year, IAS continued accrediting new special inspection agencies operating within the five boroughs of New York City. Starting November 8, 2023, registration and accreditation requirements were enacted in accordance with the New York City Buildings Bulletin 2022-014, Sections III.B and III.D, respectively. These requirements correspond to revisions in 1 RCNY 101-06, effective July 13, 2023, which outline inspector qualifications for special inspections introduced in the 2022 NYC Construction Codes. All accredited Special Inspection Agencies in New York have updated their scopes to align with the 2014 and 2022 codes.

The Accreditation Criteria for Special Inspection Agencies (AC291) underwent editorial revisions during the Accreditation Committee Hearing held virtually on October 4, 2023, and is set to take effect starting Jan 1, 2024. [Learn More.](#)

IAS holds approval to offer accreditation services to Certification Bodies (CBs) supporting the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG) Industry Controlled Other Party (ICOP) 9100 Series Aviation, Space & Defense (AS&D) certification scheme. The ICOP scheme certifies CB customers to AS 9100, AS 9110, and/or AS 9120 standards.

This IAQG recognition allows IAS to serve the “Americas,” encompassing North, Central, and South America internationally. Accreditation bodies recognized by IAQG must comply with AS 9104/1A and AS 9104/2A when conducting third-party assessments of the CBs. Furthermore, only CBs accredited for over 12 months under the ISO/IEC 17021-1 management system standard are eligible to seek aerospace accreditation. These stringent conformity requirements ensure that suppliers and aerospace companies provide products and services meeting the industry’s rigorous standards.

For more information about the IAS Aerospace accreditation, visit [Aerospace Quality Management System Certification Bodies - International Accreditation Service, Inc. \(iasonline.org\)](#). The “Important Documents” section in this link contains relevant application and policy details.



Accreditation in the Americas Update

IAS is dedicated to supporting the conformity assessment industry in Central and South America. IAS participation in regional trade shows in Santiago de Chile and in Lima, Peru has facilitated enhanced interaction with stakeholders and regulators. Moving forward, IAS plans to remain attentive to the specific accreditation needs of these regions. IAS aims to provide services that contribute to the economic and industrial development across the Americas.



ELAP Program Continues to Strengthen at IAS

IAS holds a crucial role in assessing water testing laboratories seeking accreditation under the State of California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). Since its launch in May 2020, the ELAP program at IAS has seen substantial growth in engagement, attracting over 240 new laboratory customers, including most of California's largest utilities and private laboratories. This demonstrates the tangible impact of IAS in the accreditation landscape.

Throughout 2023, IAS actively participated in several events to contribute to knowledge exchange and accreditation standards. These events included the Forum on Environmental Accreditation in San Antonio, Texas, in January 2023, and the Environmental Measurement Symposium in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in July 2023. These platforms provided opportunities for IAS to share insights on environmental laboratory practices and accreditation standards.

Emphasizing a commitment to collaboration, IAS marked its third consecutive year presenting at ELAP's annual conference, showcasing its dedication to staying informed about the latest developments in environmental laboratory accreditation. Further outreach efforts took place at the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) conference in San Diego, California, in April 2023, where IAS exhibited and presented. This engagement allowed IAS to highlight its expertise and connect with professionals in the water testing field.

Additionally, IAS actively participated in the Department of Energy Laboratory Accreditation Program/Department of Defense (DOECAP/DoD) Accreditation Body meeting in Orlando, Florida, in August 2023. This meeting served as a platform for accreditation bodies to engage in discussions aimed at enhancing accreditation processes.

Recognizing the importance of virtual communication, IAS continued its series of webinars on ELAP-related topics, attracting an average of around 200 laboratory staff from across California. This virtual approach enables IAS to efficiently share knowledge with a broader audience.

In summary, IAS's involvement in various events, both physical and virtual, reflects its commitment to advancing environmental laboratory accreditation in California. The organization plays a pivotal role in shaping accreditation practices and fostering collaboration within the state.



Validation and Verification Body (VVB)

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are increasingly pivotal in discussions regarding global climate control. To address the reduction of GHGs in product manufacturing, services, construction, and conformity activities, efforts have focused on establishing standards. The publication of the ISO Greenhouse Gas series in 2006 necessitated emission impact statements to support global climate change initiatives. This progression culminated in the issuance of ISO/IEC 17029:2019, Conformity assessment – General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies. This international standard aims to encompass and harmonize various other types of "validation and verification bodies" (VVB) for use by entities worldwide, whether legal, non-legal, private, public, or others.

Like other IAS program standards, ISO/IEC 17029 accredited VVBs can provide third-party audits for customers engaged in validation, verification, or both activities.

For more information about the IAS Validation and Verification Body accreditation program, please browse [Validation and Verification Bodies - International Accreditation Service, Inc. \(iasonline.org\)](https://iasonline.org). The "Important Documents" section provides additional application and policy details on the program.

Logos, Symbols and Marks

Customers of IAS are encouraged to use the IAS Symbols, also known as Marks, to promote their accreditation to customers, regulators, and the general public. [Click here for more](#)

Get Training from IAS

IAS offers a variety of complimentary and for-cost training programs designed for the conformity assessment industry. Find out more [here](#)



Connect with Us

IAS on Social Media

If you haven't connected with IAS on social media platforms, then you are missing out on the latest accreditation news. IAS provides periodic news updates and information on dedicated pages on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#). To find us, go to any of these pages and search for International Accreditation Service.

Promote your Accreditation

IAS customers can promote their accreditations with IAS Accreditation Program Symbols. The symbols can be used in advertisements, websites, brochures, exhibit booths, and other places to promote IAS accreditation. For accreditation symbols, send email to requestamark@iasonline.org.

Let us know what you think

IAS strives to continually improve our services and welcomes feedback, positive or negative, which we will use to provide better service to our clients and stakeholders. Visit the [Contact Us](#) page of the IAS website to share your comments.

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) is a nonprofit accreditation body and a signatory member of Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). IAS is a member of the [ICC Family of Solutions](#)



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